



Branching Out

May 29, 2009

The mission of Three Rivers Environmental Educators is to promote collaboration of resources and provide networking opportunities for environmental educators in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas of Virginia.

TREE meetings:

Next meeting at Beaverdam Park, Gloucester Virginia, June 15 at 11 am. We will be meeting at Wickem Lodge. Attendees are encouraged to bring a dish to share. This would be a great opportunity to invite any teachers that you know.

September 17 Meeting: Northumberland County Library in Heathsville from 11 to 2pm Guest speaker will be Dr. Jeff Kirwin, author of *Remarkable Trees of Virginia*.

Local Events:

Saturday, June 6, 2009 at Stratford Hall

The Lees and Independence

Program begins at 3pm

Army Band Concert at 7pm in front of the Great House

Free admission!

Commemorating the day when Richard Henry Lee made the motion for independence from England, this year's celebration--arguably as important as the Fourth of July--will include activities for children, a Revolutionary army encampment, and an evening concert by the 29th Army Band. FREE ADMISSION for activities beginning at 3:00 p.m. The band concert will be held at 7:00 p.m. and everyone is encouraged to come early and bring chairs and blankets for seating. Please do not bring pets, coolers, knapsacks, backpacks, baskets, food and drink, or alcoholic beverages. The Plantation Dining Room will be closed but will be serving a limited menu of food items on the Oval, including hamburgers, hotdogs, BBQs, cole slaw, potato chips, homemade ginger cookies, bottled water, and soft drinks.

Water Stewardship: Living Shorelines & Rain Barrels

June 18, 2009 (1-5 PM)

Longwood University's Hull Springs Farm will conduct a 4-hour workshop for educators that will explore many aspects of protecting water quality and aquatic habitats. We will visit an award-winning Living Shorelines marsh, look for resident animals, and help plant marsh grasses. Living Shorelines, a Chesapeake Bay restoration effort, is an environmentally friendly way to control erosion while providing habitat for shoreline wildlife. We will discuss how protecting shorelines is an important regional and watershed issue. Participants will also make a functioning rain barrel from a recycled pickle barrel that they will take home. They will learn how to plan educational rain barrel workshops in their own schools and communities. They will also receive a CD with

watershed and rain barrel presentations, plus a copy of Virginia's Water Resources: A Tool for Teachers correlated to Virginia's Standards of Learning (SOL). It features information and activities for teachers to support interdisciplinary and problem-based teaching about watersheds, water quality, stewardship, and management issues. Workshop is open to teachers, teachers-in-training, and natural resource professionals. Dress appropriately for the weather and outdoor activities. \$47.00 (includes finished rain barrel, Virginia's Water Resources: A Tool for Teachers, optional canoe trip, and other materials) Pre-registration is required by June 9, 2009 by calling Bobbie Burton at 804-472-2621 (email: hullspringsfarm@longwood.edu)
For more information: www.longwood.edu/hullspringsfarm/

Training Opportunity: NEW Estuaries 101 Curriculum

July 28th-29th, VIMS

CBNERRVA will be offering a training opportunity on the NEW Estuaries 101 curriculum, which consists of three modules (Earth, Life, and Physical Science-high school students) and uses estuaries as the context for developing content knowledge and skills relevant to biology, chemistry, and earth science.

Estuaries 101:

features data explorations

promotes hands-on learning activities

is correlated to national and state standards

emphasizes the ocean literacy principles and concepts

is available on-line

The training will provide an overview to all three modules of the curriculum, opportunities for field work and water quality testing, introduction to on-line data tools, and an introduction to the Chesapeake Exploration activities of Estuaries 101 specifically correlated to the Chesapeake Bay. There is no cost for this workshop. Please contact Sarah McGuire at mcguire@vims.edu if you are interested in more information on the workshop or to receive a registration packet!

Other Events:

Middle Management Institute

**\$120 one day, \$185 both days or VAM members \$75 one day, \$140 for both
University of Richmond campus**

Training for Tomorrow's Leaders...

Leading in Crunch Time: Surviving the Economic Downturn with Integrity

DATES: June 4th and 5th, 2009, Richmond

Speakers:

Tom Costello, Principal, Cultural Resources Management Group
Jason Hall, Principal, Public Trust Strategies

Topics:

DAY ONE: Financial Issues

- Establishing and Keeping to a budget
- Revenue Generation in Challenging Times
 - *Engaging the Community-museums as a cause
 - *Earned Income
 - *Fundraising
 - *Putting all the Pieces Together

DAY TWO: Legal and Ethical Issues

- Legal pitfalls and how to avoid them
- Ethics in the 21st century museum
- Keeping your Board on track legally and ethically
- How to leverage your good actions and reputation with policymakers and the media

Over the course of two days participants will learn from experts in the field who will provide theory and case studies on museum financial and legal management fundamentals.

Participants will work on small group activities and will be given a chance to develop a post workshop "game plan" for implementation of new skills.

We strongly encourage you to attend both days of this exciting program, but we know this isn't always possible due to work schedules.

To sign up for this exciting program:

call 804-788-5822

email jweiskotten@vamuseums.org

Wetland Stewardship

June 12, 2009; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Three Lakes Nature Center

What makes wetlands different from streams and rivers? The Department of Environmental Quality in partnership with the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will offer a 6-hour workshop for educators highlighting the biological and physical characteristics of wetlands. Participants will receive training in the Wonders of Wetlands (WOW!) curriculum and the statewide Wildlife Mapping program. This workshop will be held at the Three Lakes Nature Center in Henrico County. Dress appropriately for the weather and please bring rubber boots or hip waders if you have them available. Email [Stephanie Feaser](mailto:Stephanie.Feaser) by June 5, 2009 to register for this workshop.

Educator Workshop on Birds

Celebrate birds with Flying WILD, a new conservation education guide featuring interdisciplinary hands-on classroom activities along with information for engaging students in a school wide bird festival. Key concepts include migration, adaptation, the importance of habitat, and bird conservation efforts. Designed originally for middle school teachers and students, the guide contains activities suitable for all grade levels. All participants will receive a copy of the Flying WILD Activity guide and supplementary materials on Virginia birds.

Date: June 6, 2009 **Time:** 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Merrimac Farms Wildlife Management Area,

<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wmas/detail.asp?pid=37>

Cost: Free! Pre-registration is required.

Lunch: Bring a Brown Bag and have a picnic on the grounds

Contact: Suzie Gilley, 804-367-0188 or suzie.gilley@dgif.virginia.gov

PLT Advanced Workshop at Holiday Lake Forestry Camp

June 15, 2009

This is for PreK-12 educators. Holiday Lake Forestry Camp provides an in-the-woods residential camp experience for about eighty 13 – 16 year olds. PLT seeks camper nominations from teachers who have students interested in natural resources careers. Six teachers are also accepted per year into the residential camp program for professional development. Contact Lisa Deaton at (804) 328-3031 or lisa.deaton@dof.virginia.gov or visit the website at

<http://www.dof.virginia.gov/edu/camp.shtml>

Project Webfoot Educator Workshop

June 16th, 9am-3:30pm, TCC Chesapeake

Project Webfoot is a wetlands education program and curriculum created by Ducks Unlimited for formal and non-formal educators for 4th through 6th grade students. Project Webfoot has partnered with Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) to offer teachers a chance to participate in fun, hands-on activities from the Project Webfoot Kit as well as learn the skills and methods for teaching about wetlands, waterfowl, and water. Free to the 1st 20 educators!

lbehm@tcc.edu

Ag in the Classroom

July 9th, 9am-2pm, Virginia Beach Farmers Market

The workshop is open to teachers and educators that would like new ideas and lesson plans about agriculture that meet Virginia sol requirements. The workshop is fun, educational and free! You will receive lots of free resource materials as well as lunch! Sign up now, space is limited to 20 per workshop. Call 757-385-4395 or email Kalvarez@vbgov.com to reserve your space

EcoHeritage Teacher's Institute

The Bay of the Algonquians 1609-2009-2029 Eco-Heritage Teacher's Institute

July 21st-24th, First Landing State Park

The four day session will focus on teaching collaborative ways to combine Virginia Native Indian Cultural and Social Studies With Natural History and Environmental Science

Participants will receive training materials and curriculum guides for: Virginia Native Indian Curriculum Guide, Project WET, Project WILD, Virginia State Parks, Your Backyard Classroom

Teachers will receive recertification credit.

All participants are asked to donate 2 hours of time at the Public Environmental Stewardship Event on the Saturday following the seminar. Register by email at: msteen1781@cox.net, 564-6421

James River Rundown

July 23rd, James River (Iron Gate to Ft. Monroe)

The idea of the Rundown is simple - river enthusiasts from across the Commonwealth will paddle, boat, tube, sail or otherwise cover small sections of the James River such that, taken in concert, the entire length of the James River - all 340-miles - will be traversed in one day. As part of their Rundown, River Runners may observe water quality, view wildlife, and simply enjoy the river. Moreover, friends and family can show support for the JRA and individual Runners by pledging support at the Runoff Rundown website (www.runoffrundown.org).

Wetlands workshop at the Claytor Nature Study Center of Lynchburg College, August 4, 5, and 6, 2009. The workshops are lead by a collaboration between Environmental Concern Inc., VA Resource Use Education Council, and local wetlands scientists. Registration and lunch and refreshments are provided by a grant from the VA Resource Use Education Council, on a first-come-first-serve basis. No-fee Registration is limited to 25 for each day. Day 2 is an advanced training with a pre-requisite of Day 1 (or evidence of previous WOW! Training). This is the only WOW! and POW! opportunity offered in Virginia this year. Reserve your place by registering early at: http://www.wetland.org/education_schedule.htm

The Claytor Nature Study Center of Lynchburg College is a beautiful 470-acre preserve in the shadow of the Peaks of Otter in Bedford County, VA. We have served more than 5000 learners of all ages in environmental, nature, wetland and watershed studies over the past 3 years. With more than 40 acres of delineated wetlands along the Big Otter River, many other diverse natural habitats, and small conference facilities that place you in the forest canopy overlooking our wetlands, this should be a learning experience you will not soon forget.

Questions and more information? Email is best: eaton.g@lynchburg.edu

[From Charlene: I took both of these workshops in the past. WOW was \$25 and POW was \$50. What a great opportunity to take these at no cost.)

Free Tools and other Cool Stuff

Tracks to Success

[How to Build a Successful Fundraising Team](#)

Baseball has been used for over a century as a metaphor for many of life's challenges. In this nine-part series, GrantStation CEO Cindy Adams uses the baseball metaphor to help organizations learn how to better manage community volunteers in order to expand and strengthen their organization's fundraising capabilities. This series focuses on transforming a dedicated group of volunteers into a viable fundraising team. To read the first article in this series, "In the Big Inning," click on the link above.

Jobs

Westmoreland State Park in Montross is seeking a Park Interpreter to lead programs in natural and cultural history. Job duties include the ability to plan and present hikes, evening programs, and tours. Hours include weekends, holidays, and evenings. Pay rate is \$10.00 to \$11.68 per hour. Please mail a completed state application directly to the park at Westmoreland State Park, 1650 State Park Road, Montross VA 22520. A state application can be found on the parks website, www.virginiastateparks.gov

Volunteer Opportunities

TREE needs a new secretary. Contact charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov for more information.

Got news, job postings, events, or other information to share? Want to brag about awards? Hear about something that would be of interest to members? Send them to charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov